

## Two Levels of Wintering Steers Followed by Direct or Deferred Finishing, 3 Yrs. Results

An experiment was begun in the Fall of 1957 to compare two rates of wintering steer calves followed by direct dry lot finishing, or summer grazing and later dry lot finishing. Two equal lot of 16 steers each are wintered on a 'normal' and a 'low' ration. About May 1, each lot is subdivided into a dry lot group and a pasture group. Dry lot groups are fed six months and marketed. Pasture groups graze tame and native grass pastures five months, then go into dry lot for about six months finishing. Finishing rations are the same for all dry lot feeding.

Regular weights and cost date are kept on all steers to compare the over-all cost of the two wintering methods and the direct vs. deferred finishing methods.

The finishing phase of the third years' deferred-fed steers was begun September 28, 1960. Calves were weaned and started on the wintering phase for the fourth annual trial, November 1, 1960. Table 3 shows the results of the wintering phase; Table 4 summarizes results of the summer dry-lot phase, and Table 5 combines the summer grazing and second winter dry-lot phases.

Table 3. Wintering Steer Calves, 2 Rations, 3 Trials				
	Normal Ration		Low Ration	
	1959-1960	3-Yr. Av.	1959-60	3-Yr. Av.
Steers/lot	16	15	16	15
Weaning Wt.	346	362	346	365
Spring Wt.	572	595	475	498

Av. Daily Gain	1.24	1.27	.90	.78
Daily Feed:				
Corn Silage	23	24	20	20
Cr. Wht-grass Hay	4	4	4	4
Whole Oats	2	2	0	0
Feed Per 100 lb. Gain:				
Corn Silage	1834	1886	2769	2804
Cr. Wht-grass Hay	318	314	560	564
Whole Oats	160	158		
Feed Cost/100 Gain	\$12.27	\$12.38	\$15.01	\$15.17

Table 4. Summer Dry-Lot Finishing of One-Half Steers in Wintering Trials				
	From Normal Winter Lot		From Low Winter Lot	
	1960	3-Yr. Av.	1960	3-Yr. Av.
Steers/lot	8	7	8	8
Initial Wt.	572	599	476	496
Final Wt.	933	1025	896	952

Av. Daily Gain	2.03	2.38	2.36	2.56
Daily Feed:				
Corn Silage	37	45	36	43
Alf. Hay	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Soybean Meal	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Ground Barley	4.0	4.4	4.0	4.5
Bonemeal & Salt, 3:1	.2	.2	.2	.2
Feed Per 100 Lb. Gain:				
Corn Silage	1810	1907	1536	1683
Alf. Hay	122	104	105	96
Soybean Meal	74	63	64	59
Ground Barley	197	186	170	175
Bonemeal & Salt, 3:1	9.9	8.4	8.5	7.9
Feed Cost/100 Lb. Gain	\$14.14	\$13.64	\$12.09	\$12.41
Selling Price/100 Lb.	22.33	23.75	22.50	23.59
Return/Hd. Above Feed from Weaning to Market	52.30	69.26	53.39	61.60

When steers were fed out during the summer following a normal or low wintering ration, there was a slight advantage in net return for those on the normal winter ration. The average increase in return per head above feed costs have

been \$7.66 for the three years the trial has been conducted. This trend was reversed in the 1960 summer lots when a much higher rate of gain (2.36 vs. 2.03) was shown from the low winter ration lot.

Table 5. Summer Grazing and Winter Finishing						
	Steers From Normal Winter Lots			Steers From Low Winter Lots		
	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
No. Steers/Lot	8	8	8	8	8	8
Wt. to Grass	606.9	607.5	571	510.6	503.1	475
Wt. off Grass	858.1	830.6	731	800.6	761.3	677
Days of Grazing	152	136	149	152	136	149
Daily Pasture Gain	1.65	1.64	1.07	1.91	1.90	1.36
Cost of 100 Lb. - Pasture Gain	\$3.03	\$3.05	\$4.66	\$2.62	\$2.64	\$3.69
Finished Wt.	1111.9	1190.6	In Progress	1084.4	1081.3	In Progress
Days in Dry-Lot	173	162		173	162	
Daily Dry-Lot Gain	1.47	2.22		1.64	1.99	
Daily Ration, Dry Lot:						
Corn Silage	58	52		58	53	
Soybean Meal	1.68	1.69		1.68	1.69	
Alf. Hay	2.5	2.5		2.5	2.5	

Ground Barley	4.05	3.41		4.05	3.41	
Bonemeal & Salt, 3:1	.27	.27		.27	.27	
Feed Per 100 Lb. Gain:						
Corn Silage	3953	2336		3559	2663	
Alf. Hay	170	112		152	125	
Soybean Meal	115	76		103	85	
Ground Barley	276	153		247	170	
Bonemeal & Salt, 3:1	18	12		16	13	
Feed Cost Per 100 Lb. - Dry Lot Gain	\$25.59	\$15.45		\$22.96	\$17.42	
Selling Price/Cwt.	24.80	24.40		25.35	25.00	
Return Per Hd. - Above feed, Wean to Mkt.	84.35	105.95		90.76	90.30	

When the steers go into dry-lot in late September, they are fed 2 pounds per day of soybean meal and no grain for the first 60 days. After 60 days, the soymeal is reduced to 1  $\frac{2}{3}$  pounds and ground barley is fed at 4 pounds per day. In the first winter, because the rate of gain was low, the ground barley was increased to 8 pounds per day for the final 60 days. This finally brought an increase in rate of gain, but also increased the cost of gains.

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